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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/604,231

06/27/00

POMPEIUS

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HM12/0910

EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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1652

DATE MAILED:

08/10/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/604,231	Applicant(s) Pompejus et al.
Examiner Maryam Monshipouri	Art Unit 1652

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1, 2, 9-19, 25-33, and 39 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims 1, 2, 9-19, 25-33, and 39 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1652

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-2 and 9-17, drawn isolated DNA molecules encoding phosphoenolpyruvate from *Coryneform glutamicum*, vectors and host cell comprising said molecules and methods of expressing said molecules classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.
- II. Claims 18-19 and 39, drawn to said pyruvate, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- III. Claims 25-33, drawn to a method of producing a fine chemical comprising culturing a host cell comprising said DNA molecules, classified in class 435, subclass 41.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The DNA of Group I is patentably distinct from the pyruvate of Group II because each product has an independent chemical structure and function.

Inventions I (or II) and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the DNA of Group I and the pyruvate of Group II may be used in a hybridization assay and a food additive production method respectively, which are entirely

Art Unit: 1652

different methods than that of Group III. Similarly the method of Group III may employ synthetic substrates in order to produce the fine chemicals which are entirely different products than this of Groups I and II.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter as shown by their separate classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is reminded that Claims 1-2, 9-17, 39 and 25-33 drawn to Groups I, part of Group II (only claim 39) and Group III are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct inventions comprising SEQ ID NO:2, 6, 8, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 directed to products of distinct chemical structure and function. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single invention from Groups I-III above directed to a single SEQ ID NO:, even though this requirement is traversed.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Art Unit: 1652

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Maryam Monshipouri, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-1083. The examiner can normally be reached between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p/m,/ daily except for Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Dr. P. Achutamurthy, can be reached at (703) 308-3804. The OFFICIAL fax number for Technology Center 1600 is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Monshipouri
Maryam Monshipouri, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner